

February 23, 2023

Written Testimony of THE JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

Before the Government Administration and Elections Committee concerning Senate Bill #1057 / An Act Concerning the Secretary of the State and Early Voting.

Dear Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

On behalf of the Jewish Community of Greater Hartford, the board of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford goes on record in support of SB #1057.

The Jewish Community Relations Council educates and galvanizes the Jewish community on issues of social justice, combats hate, and advocates for public policy consistent with Jewish values. One of the core tenets of Judaism is *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. In that vein, our legislative priorities focus on issues such as feeding the hungry, enhancing education, and fostering economic growth.

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) supports implementing access to early voting in accordance with the recently passed referendum. The right to vote is fundamental to our system of government. Our current "one day only" election sets Connecticut apart from most other states, and limits who is able to participate in this important exercise. Allowing for early voting over the course of several days or weeks leading up to Election Day will promote civic engagement for all people.

This issue of early voting is one of our policy priorities this year. Ease and access to voting are of the utmost importance to ensuring a healthy and thriving democracy. To increase the number of active voters and promote civic engagement in our state, it is essential that provide multiple dates on which to vote.

Thank you for your consideration. You are welcome to contact us with any questions by contacting Danielle Moghadam, Director of JCRC, at dmoghadam@jewishhartford.org or 860-727-6152.

SINCERELY,

GARY S. STARR, CHAIR, JCRC, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

DEB POLUN, CHAIR, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TASK FORCE, JCRC, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

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